

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Previously Presented): An interfacing device that integrates feeder mechanisms and surface mount machines of differing manufacture, the interfacing device comprising:
  - a carriage to which a feeder plate mechanism is mounted, wherein said carriage provides external feeder connectors from a surface mount machine to the feeder plate mechanism; and
  - a plurality of feeder mechanisms that are received by said feeder plate mechanism, wherein said feeder mechanisms provide internal feeder connectors from said feeder plate mechanism to said plurality of feeder mechanisms, and wherein said feeder plate mechanism adapts said external feeder connectors to said internal feeder connectors.
2. (Previously Presented): The interfacing device of Claim 1, wherein said external feeder connectors comprise pneumatic and electrical connections.
3. (Previously Presented): The interfacing device of Claim 1, wherein said internal feeder connectors comprise pneumatic and electrical connections.
4. (Previously Presented): The interfacing device of Claim 1, wherein a switch within the surface mount machine is configured to enable an operator to select a type of feeder mechanism within said interface device.
5. (Previously Presented): The interfacing device of Claim 1, wherein positioning pins within said interfacing device align components coupled by said internal feeder connectors and said external feeder connectors.

6. (Previously Presented): The interfacing device of Claim 1, wherein said feeder plate mechanism comprises a top plate assembly used to couple said feeder plate mechanism to the surface mount machine.

7. (Previously Presented): The interfacing device of Claim 1, wherein said carriage comprises a tape dump operable to catch spent feeder tape expended by one of the feeder mechanisms.

8. **(Currently Amended)**: The interfacing device of Claim 1, wherein said carriage comprises rolling members that are configured to enable an operator to **easily** reposition the interfacing device to and from the surface mount machine.

9. (Previously Presented): The interfacing device of Claim 1, wherein said feeder plate mechanism comprises one or more locks to secure said feeder mechanisms within said feeder plate mechanism.

10. (Previously Presented): The interfacing device of Claim 1, wherein said carriage comprises a frame of adjustable height.

11. **(Currently Amended)**: A method of interfacing and integrating feeder mechanisms to surface mount machines of differing manufacture, the method comprising the steps of:

mounting a feeder plate mechanism to a carriage, wherein said carriage provides

external feeder connectors from a surface mount machine to the feeder plate mechanism;

connecting a plurality of feeder mechanisms to said feeder plate mechanism, wherein

said feeder mechanisms couple to said feeder plate mechanism via internal feeder connectors, and wherein said feeder plate mechanism adapts said external feeder connectors to said internal feeder connectors;

coupling said carriage to the surface mount machine, and

selecting, via a switch within the surface mount machine, [[the]] a control program for a type of feeder mechanism from a plurality of control programs for feeder mechanisms of different manufacturers feeders contained within said feeder plate mechanism.

12. (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 11, wherein said external feeder connectors and said internal feeder connectors comprise pneumatic and electrical connections.

13. (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 11, wherein positioning pins within said interfacing device align components coupled by said internal feeder connectors and said external feeder connectors.

14. (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 11, wherein said feeder plate mechanism comprises a top plate assembly used to couple said feeder plate mechanism to the surface mount machine.

15. (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 11, wherein said carriage comprises a tape dump operable to catch spent feeder tape expended by one of the feeder mechanisms.

16. (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 11, wherein said carriage comprises rolling members that are configured to enable an operator to easily reposition the interfacing device to and from the surface mount machine.

17. (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 11, wherein said feeder plate mechanism comprises one or more locks to secure said feeder mechanisms within said feeder plate mechanism.

18. (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 11, wherein said carriage comprises a frame of adjustable height.

19. **(Currently Amended):** An interfacing device that integrates feeder mechanisms and surface mount machines of differing manufacture, the interfacing device comprising:

a carriage to which a feeder plate mechanism is mounted, wherein said carriage provides external feeder connectors from a surface mount machine to the feeder plate mechanism, and wherein said external feeder connectors comprise pneumatic and electrical connections;

a plurality of feeder mechanisms that are received by said feeder plate mechanism, wherein said feeder mechanisms provide internal feeder connectors from said feeder plate mechanism to said plurality of feeder mechanisms, wherein said internal feeder connectors comprise pneumatic and electrical connections, wherein said feeder plate mechanism adapts said external feeder connectors to said internal feeder connectors, and wherein mechanical stops and positioning pins secure said feeder mechanisms within said feeder plate mechanism; and

[[a]] means for selecting a control program for a type of feeder mechanism from a plurality of control programs for feeder mechanisms of different manufacturers, the means being contained within said interface device.

20. **(Previously Presented):** The interfacing device of Claim 19, wherein said carriage comprises:

a tape dump operable to catch spent feeder tape expended by one of the feeder mechanisms;

rolling members that are configured to enable an operator to easily reposition the interfacing device to and from the surface mount machine; and

a means for adjusting a height of said carriage.

21. **(Previously Presented):** The interfacing device of Claim 8, wherein said rolling members are casters.

22. **(Previously Presented):** The method of Claim 16, wherein said rolling members are casters.

23. (Previously Presented): The interfacing device of Claim 20, wherein said rolling members are casters.

24. (New): The interfacing device of Claim 1, wherein the external feeder connectors are configured to be interchangeable with different external feeder connectors to connect the feeder plate mechanism to a different surface mount machine.

25. (New): The method of Claim 11, further comprising exchanging the external feeder connectors with different external feeder connectors to connect the feeder plate mechanism to a different surface mount machine.

26. (New): The interfacing device of Claim 19, wherein the external feeder connectors are configured to be interchangeable with different external feeder connectors to connect the feeder plate mechanism to a different surface mount machine.